

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because Figures 3, 4, 5A, and 5B should be designated by a legend such as --PRIOR ART--.

The drawings are also objected to because reference numeral "14" and its corresponding lead line is used to identify a sensor in the specification and other figures and no sensor appears in Figure 4.

In response, a Submission of Corrected Sheets the Drawings is being filed concurrently herewith in which the legend --PRIOR ART-- has been added to Figures 3, 4, 5A, and 5b and reference numeral "14" and its respective lead line has been deleted from Figure 14. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the objections to the drawings has/have been overcome.

Title

The title has been objected to as not being descriptive. In response, a new title, which is more clearly indicative of the claimed invention, is presented herein for the Examiner's consideration and approval.

Abstract

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to include the Examiner's suggestions.

Specification

The specification is objected to because of minor informalities noted by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to attend to any informalities, including those kindly identified by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claims 1 and 3 through 19 are now pending in the application. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, and 13 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Claims 17 through 19 have been added to accord Applicants an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 6, 12, 18, and 19 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 2, 3, and 5 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. With the exception of Claim 2, which has been canceled, the claims remain in their dependent form, inasmuch as it is believed that amended Claim 1 from which they depend will be found to be allowable.

Claims 6 through 16 are allowable over the prior art of record for the reasons set forth on the Official Action.

Claim Objection

Claim 13 has been objected to for the reasons set forth in the Official Action. In response, Claim 13 has been amended to include the Examiner's suggestions. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to Claim 13 has been overcome.

Art Rejection

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,055,881 (Fukuchi).

The rationale underlying the foregoing art rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Art Rejection

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely to expedite prosecution, Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 2, which has been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 1 and Claim 4, which depends on Claim 1 is now moot and further comment thereon is not necessary.

Newly-Presented Independent Claims

Claim 18 calls for an image forming apparatus to which a toner supplying container is detachably mountable, the toner supplying container including a container body for containing a toner, a toner discharging port provided in the container body, and a shutter for opening and closing the toner discharging port, the image forming apparatus that includes a mounting portion to which the toner supplying container is mounted; a door provided at an entrance of said mounting portion, the door being openable and closable for interchange of the toner supplying container; drive transmitting means drive-connected to both of the shutter and a rotary member provided on one end side of the toner supplying

container when the toner supplying container is mounted to the mounting portion for transmitting a drive applied to the rotary member to the shutter to open and close the shutter; an optical sensor provided on an inner surface of the door to detect whether a detection portion provided on the rotary member is in an opposite position when the door is closed; and means for judging an opening or closing state of the shutter based on a detection result of the optical sensor.

Claim 19 is similar to Claim 18 except that Claim 19 does not call for a means for judging an opening or closing state of the shutter based on a detection result of the optical sensor. Rather, Claim 19 calls for a means for judging a presence or absence of a mounted toner supplying container based on a detection result of the optical sensor.

It is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 18 and 19 also are allowable over the art of record.

Dependent Claims

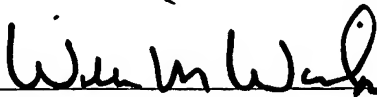
Claims 3 through 5, 7 through 11, and 13 through 16 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 1, 6, and 12 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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